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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Dai, et al. :
Application No. 10/584,114 : ON APPLICATION FOR
Filed: May 21, 2007 : PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Docket No. 57070-8020.US00 :
:

This is in response to the STATEMENT OF FACTS UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.705(b)(2) IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT, filed June 21, 2010. Applicants submit that the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent is at minimum one thousand thirty-one (1031) days, not five hundred seventy-seven (577) days as calculated by the Office as of the mailing of the initial determination of patent term adjustment. Applicants request this correction on the basis that the Office will take in excess of three years to issue this patent.

In addition, applicants dispute the period of reduction of 577 days for Office delay in mailing at least one of a notification under 35 U.S.C. 132 not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application fulfilled the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371 in an international application. Applicants contend the period of reduction should be 909 days.

To the extent that applicants request reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date, the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is DISMISSED as PREMATURE.

Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentees are entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.702(b). The computer will not undertake the § 1.702(b) calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Likewise, the computer will not calculate any further Office delay under § 1.702(a)(4) or

applicant delay under § 1.704(c)(10) until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. As such, the Office cannot make a determination on the correctness of the patent term adjustment until the patent has issued.

Requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent under 37 CFR 1.705(b) based on the initial determination of patent term adjustment and a projected issuance date of the patent is premature. Accordingly, it is appropriate to dismiss as premature such a request.

Rather than file an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) contesting the 37 CFR 1.702(b) calculation at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicants are advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). As the USPTO does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent. However, as to all other bases for contesting the initial determination of patent term adjustment received with the notice of allowance, applicants must timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee.¹

To the extent that applicants otherwise request correction of the initial determination of patent term adjustment (PTA), the application for patent term adjustment is **DISMISSED**.

On June 14, 2010, the Office mailed the Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) in the above-identified application. The Notice stated that the patent term adjustment to date is 577 days.

¹ For example, if applicant disputes both the calculation of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) for Office failure to mail a first Office action or notice of allowance not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed and under 37 CFR 1.702(b) for Office failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application, then applicant must still timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee to contest the calculation of Office delay in issuing a first Office action or notice of allowance. See 37 CFR 1.705(b) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B). A dispute as to the calculation of the §1.702(a)(1) period raised on request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) will be dismissed as untimely filed.

Applicants dispute the period of adjustment of 577 days for Office delay in mailing at least one of a notification under 35 U.S.C. 132 or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 151 not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application fulfilled the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371 in an international application. Applicants contend the period of reduction should be 909 days. Applicants argue that June 23, 2006 should be the date from which the 14 month period is calculated.² The Office calculated the 14 month period from May 21, 2007, which is the completion date.

Applicants are informed that the date of completion of all 35 U.S.C. 371 requirements is relevant for purposes of patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(i)(II) and 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) when the Office has failed to mail a notification under 35 U.S.C. 132 or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 151 not later than 14 months after the date on which the requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371 were fulfilled. This date is the latest of:

- (A) the date of submission of the basic national fee;
- (B) the date of submission or communication of the copy of the international application;
- (C) the date of submission of the translation of the international application if the international application is not in the English language;
- (D) the date of submission of an oath or declaration of the inventor in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)
- (E) the earlier of 30 months from the priority date or the date of request for early processing under 35 U.S.C. 371(f) if requested prior to 30 months from the priority date;
- (F) if a request for early processing has not been requested prior to 30 months from the priority date, the date of submission of any translation of the annexes to the international preliminary examination report if the translation of the annexes are filed within the time period set in a Notification of Missing Requirements

² Applicants argue that June 23, 2006 is the commencement date. The priority date is December 24, 2003. As the expiration of the 30-month period pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 371(b) fell on a Saturday, the period expired on the subsequent business day. See PCT Rule 80.5. Accordingly, the commencement date is Monday, June 26, 2006. This information is salient to any future filed petition under 37 CFR 1.705(d).

- requiring either an English translation of the international application or an oath or declaration; and
- (G) the date of submission of any surcharge for submitting the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the priority date.

The date of completion in this application is May 21, 2007. It is the date that applicants filed an oath or declaration. This is the latest of the above-listed events. Therefore, entry of the period of reduction of 577 days (from July 22, 2008, which is the date after 14 months after the date of completion, to February 18, 2010, the date a non-final Office action was mailed) is warranted.

In view thereof, the determination of patent term adjustment at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance remains 577 days.

The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e) for consideration of the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b).

Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent must be timely filed within 2 months after issuance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d) and must include payment of the required fee under 37 CFR 1.18(e).

The Office of Data Management has been advised of this decision. This application is being referred to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to Shirene Willis Brantley, Senior Petitions Attorney, at (571) 272-3230.



Anthony Knight
Director
Office of Petitions